

**TRIBAL NATION GRANT FUND PROGRAM****Minutes of the September 18, 2020  
Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program Meeting**

Hearing Room 100/Teleconference  
2399 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
[www.tngf.ca.gov](http://www.tngf.ca.gov)

**OPEN SESSION****1. Call to Order**

Christina Snider called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

**2. Traditional Opening**

Chairman Attebery led the Panel in a traditional opening prayer.

**3. Roll Call**

Roll call of Panel members was taken with Chairman Attebery, Chairwoman Pinto, Chairwoman Bovee, Chairman Miller, and Vice-Chairwoman Ross – present via teleconference. Quorum was met, and all Panel members were identified as voting members.

**4. Approval of July 24, 2020 TNGF Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Miller made a motion to approve the July 24, 2020 TNGF meeting agenda, Chairwoman Pinto seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Bovee clarified that the motion should be to approve the meeting minutes and not agenda.

Chairman Miller amended the motion to approve the July 24, 2020 TNGF meeting minutes, Chairwoman Pinto accepted the motion amendments with, Chairwoman Bovee and Vice-Chairwoman Ross voting yes to approve; by consensus the Panel members approved the July 24, 2020 meeting minutes.

**5. Consideration of Equal Distribution Grant Application Amendments and Extensions****a. Wilton Rancheria**

This request was be tabled for the next meeting, if Wilton still needs the request.

b. Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation requested an extension to June 30, 2021 due to COVID-19. Christina Snider recommended approval.

Chairman Miller made a motion approve the extension request from Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Chairwoman Pinto seconded the motion with, Chairwoman Bovee and Vice-Chairwoman Ross voting yes to approve; by consensus the Panel members approved the extension request from Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.

c. Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria

Manchester Band of Pomo Indians requested a change to their approved Strengthening Infrastructure project. Would like to reallocate their original award, which was Community Center Improvements and Supplemental ICWA program line items for \$220,547.20 to the EPA debt repayment. The Tribe secured funding that they can utilize to fund the Community Center Improvements and ICWA program.

Chairwoman Pinto made a motion to approve the reallocation request from Manchester Band of Pomo Indians, Chairwoman Bovee seconded the motion.

Commission Chief Counsel Todd Vlaanderen addressed the Panel to ask if it was important to find out more detail about what the loan is, and what they are repaying it for, so that the Panel knows that it has nothing to do with their gaming operations or something that it should not be used for.

Chairwoman Pinto amended the motion to approve the reallocation request from Manchester Band of Pomo Indians contingent on it not being for debt servicing for anything related to Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians gaming operations. Chairwoman Bovee accepted the motion amendments, with Chairman Attebery, Chairman Miller and Vice-Chairwoman Ross voting yes to approve; by consensus the Panel members approved the extension request from Manchester Band of Pomo Indians.

6. Consideration of Extension for the COVID-19 Emergency Grant Expenditure Period

Christina Snider recommended the Panel extend the COVID-19 Emergency Grant expenditure encumbrance period to 1-year from the award date.

Chairwoman Bovee recommended there be a 6-month reporting period similar to the Equal Distribution Grant.

Christina Snider confirmed the grant guidelines do state the grant does require a 6-month and 12-month reporting period.

Chairwoman Bovee made a motion to extend the expenditure period to 1-year from the award date and to follow the Equal Distribution reporting guidelines; Vice-Chairwoman Ross seconded the motion with, Chairman Attebery, Chairwoman Pinto and Chairman Miller voting yes to approve; by consensus the Panel members approved to extend the COVID-19 Emergency Grant expenditure period to 1-year from the award date.

#### 7. Review of Draft and Possible Adoption of Ethics for the Panel and Conflict Resolution

Christina Snider reviewed the draft copy of the Code of Ethics of the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Panel.

Chairman Miller had his General Council review the draft, and they felt it was fair to the Panel members.

Chairman Attebery suggested defining “immediate family” under Article III section B (1) as spouse, mother, father, children, stepchildren, and siblings.

Vice-Chairwoman Ross asked if it should include in-laws - Panel agreed, yes.

Public Comment – Richard Armstrong: In the regulatory world a lot of time is given to the different family relationships we have in Indian Country, we include a reference to any other person who resides in the same home. There are many people who may or may not be married officially or culturally, but that reside in the same home.

Christina Snider responded: That is not a bad inclusion, and it would read as, spouse, parents, grandparents, children, siblings and any other person who resides in the same household or dwelling, because that would also include ICWA adoptions and other situations that might not be standard in non-native homes.

Commission Chief Counsel Todd Vlaanderen suggested including grandchildren if you are going to include grandparents.

Christina Snider and the Panel agreed.

Chairwoman Pinto made a motion to approve the Code of Ethics of the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Panel, Chairman Attebery seconded the motion with, Chairwoman Bovee, Chairman Miller, and Vice-Chairwoman Ross voting yes to approve; by consensus the Panel members approved Code of Ethics of the Tribal Nation Grant Fund Panel.

#### 8. Review of Draft Auditing Process

Christina Snider reviewed the draft copy of the Process for Auditing Grants. This was drafted based on feedback received from the Bureau of Gambling Control and is meant to provide transparency to awardees about what kind of activities will trigger an audit.

Christina Snider and Erica Dennis, TNGF Program Analyst, will set up a call with the Bureau to address the following: timeline for conducting audits, what the Panel should expect, and looking at these questions from the draft – what that process would look like. Based on this call, Christina Snider will draft a process in a procedural format for the Bureau to conduct audits.

The Panel agreed to carry this topic over to the next meeting.

#### 9. Discussion of Future TNGF Grants

Christina Snider would like to keep this topic on the agenda to see whether the Panel wants to think more conceptually about the framework for larger grants, or if there is something, the Panel wants to consider funding at this time.

Chairman Miller sent Christina Snider information he was receiving from tribes expressing their needs due to the fires. Chairman Miller would like to see if there is anything the Panel can do to assist these tribes in need.

Christina Snider discussed if some of the needs coming in would fit under a small general emergency grant like what was discussed in the early days of TNGF meetings.

Chairwoman Pinto agreed an emergency grant needs to be distributed quickly to assist with the fires; Northern California has been hit especially hard and funds needs to get out quickly to assist.

Chairman Attebery agreed, if you're talking about direct funding for Happy Camp area, I would probably need to recuse myself, but we could use all the help we can get.

Chairwoman Bovee - We have various tribes that are coming to us and our own tribal members who live in different areas and are asking if we can assist with donations and fundraisers. We have been considering working with tribal council to develop what we can, to put something together for people who have lost their homes. People have lost their lives, it's been completely devastating.

Christina Snider - In early discussion, there was talk about setting aside \$1-2 million for ongoing emergency funds. The Panel could look at setting up a rolling emergency fund and discuss it at the next meeting.

Chairwoman Pinto discussed because of the urgent situation that the Panel should schedule a meeting with this topic alone. The Panel should reach out to the tribes and give them a week to respond back with their needs. Chairman Miller agreed.

Christina Snider and Erica Dennis will work on sending out an emergency response needs survey to all eligible tribes.

A meeting will be held Friday, October 2, 2020 10-12 p.m.

10. Future Meeting Dates and Topics

Friday, October 1, 2020 10-12 p.m.

- TNGF Emergency Grant

Friday, October 16, 2020 2-4 p.m.

- Consideration of Grant Amendments, Extensions, or Modifications
- Audit Process

11. Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

No comments

**ADJOURNMENT**